

HUMAN BEINGS AND THE WEAKNESS OF FORGETTING**Dear Mumins!**

Humans are good in nature. Badness only emerges from due to our inability to convey the goodness in our essence through our work, family, and marriage into our lives. Well... Why are we unable to convey this goodness? We forget. We forget ourselves, forget that we are in the presence of Allah (s.w.t.), and we forget our Lord.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Humans are the beings that produce and use knowledge the most among all the creatures. Nevertheless, in spite of this virtue, the human being is the most forgetful as well. This forgetting is not limited to outside things. But we forget ourselves too. We forget the mission loaded upon us. However, human beings have been created in such a manner that we would reflect the divine names, just like the water could be a mirror, for knowledge ('ilm), omnipotence (qudrat), generosity (karam), compassion (rahmat), foresight (ferasat), wisdom (hikmat), truth (haq), honesty (istikamat), confidence (amniyyat), excellence (izzat), honor (sharaf), modesty (hayâ), and life. These names would be manifested in our existence. Because of this, the devil objected to the Lord of 'âlamîn, the Lord of all worlds, which can be interpreted as follows: "You chose a wrong being as best of the creatures (ashraf mahlûkât). You loaded the trust (amanat) onto the wrong one. However, it is me who would be capable to bear your trust. Man would not execute this plan. Since you chose the wrong candidate, I would never prostrate (make sajdah) in front of him."¹ Also the angels, in the beginning, expressed their anxiety and suspicions saying that "man would make mischief and shed blood on the earth"² But Allah (s.w.t.) calmed them by saying that "I know what you don't know." Afterwards, the angels



prostrated in front of Adam (a.s.).³ Thus, the person who forgets himself/herself would have forgotten the value that Allah (s.w.t.) bestowed upon him/her, and the mission loaded upon him/her.

Dear Mumins!

In spite of the divine order of "**He is with you wheresoever you may be**"⁴ we, as human beings, forget, from time to time, that we are in the presence of Allah and that we are with Allah in the house, at school and at work. The most characteristic feature of this kind of people is that they remember Allah (s.w.t.) when they encounter trouble and then forget Him (s.w.t.) just after that trouble is solved.⁵ People, due to this forgetting, disrupt the ethical and social order in the society in which they live. Many humane and Islamic values like fairness, fidelity, justice, moderation, mercy, straightness, eating halal and compassion vanish after that forgetting.

Forgetting occasionally reaches such an extreme that we completely forget **the Lord who is nearer to us than our jugular vein**⁶, **the Creator, the One to whom we are in debt for everything**. If our forgetting reaches that level, then all kinds of badness can be expected from us. Likewise, there is nothing that a person like this could not forget. What other kind of beauty can one who forgets his Allah (s.w.t.) remember?!!

Let us remember our Lord, and that we are in His presence at every moment everywhere. And let us take pains to make remarks and cultivate behaviors that will remind us of Him at all moments so that we will be happy both in the world and the hereafter.

³ Refer to: Al-Baqarah, 34.

⁴ Al-Hadîd, 4.

⁵ Refer to. Az-Zumar, 8.

⁶ Qâf, 16.

¹ Refer to: Al-Hijr, 26-33 and An-Nahl, 49-50.

² Refer to: Al-Baqarah, 30.